



Alberta Cattle Commission

GRASS routes

The Alberta Cattle Producer Monthly Update

January 1997

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Producers Set Course for 1997

Larry Helland of Lomond (left photo) and Dale Wilson of Rosedale were re-affirmed as Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) chairman and vice-chairman respectively at the twenty-second annual general meeting in Calgary. Cec Jardine of Valleyview rounds out the executive as the new finance chairman.

A complete list of directors and delegates is on pages 5-8.

Delegates passed 42 resolutions in total dealing with all aspects of the industry. Some of the major policy decisions were:

- Delegates supported the concept of a **national beef check-off** for promotion, market development and research. A national check-off would ensure equal funding from all Canadian producers as well as allow for check-off collection on imported cattle and beef.
- Delegates decided to **promote and assist in the establishment of a mandatory national beef identification program**. Such a system would allow individual animals to be tracked through the system providing product safety and production data advantages.
- The meeting approved the **amended marketing plan and marketing regulation** which are the by-laws that govern the operation and activities of the ACC. The plan and regulation are being updated as part of the government's regulatory review. **For a copy of the plan and regulation contact the ACC office.**
- Delegates agreed to **investigate funding a beef research chair** at the University of

Alberta. Program funding would come from the Alberta beef industry development fund created out of the early termination of government industry support programs.

- Delegates resolved to lobby the provincial government to **manage wildlife more effectively** in areas where wildlife is causing significant damage to feed supplies.
- It was agreed to **continue research into the effects of the petrochemical industry on livestock** and to work with the petroleum industry to reduce and eliminate emission impacts.
- Delegates agreed to **contribute \$50,000 to Growing Alberta - a provincial public awareness campaign** about the food industry.

Other highlights of the meeting included Bernard and Michael Kotelko of Highland Feeders (right photo) being recognized as winners of the **1997 Environmental Stewardship Award** (see page 2). Minutes of the AGM are available from the ACC office, (403) 275-4400.

Check-off Upheld

In a recent challenge of a lower court ruling, the Alberta Court of Appeal has upheld the right of the Alberta Cattle Commission to collect the check-off on all cattle marketed in Alberta. The appeal court agreed that the check-off is not a tax, but a service fee for activities taken on behalf of beef producers and that the check-off is properly levied under the provisions of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act.

Alberta Cattle Commission 4-H Scholarship Winners:

Congratulations
Becky Mitchell
of Kitscoty
and
Kurtis Hewson
of Delia

Each received
\$500 towards their
post secondary
education. Well
done and good
luck to both our
winners!





The Environment

Feedlot Wins Environmental Award

Bernard and Michael Kotelko, owners of Highland Feeders of Vegreville, are the 1997 winners of the Alberta Cattle Commission Environmental Stewardship Award (ESA).

The Kotelko brothers were selected for their excellent management practices, commitment to limiting the environmental impact of their feedlot, and efforts to promote best management practices to the industry.

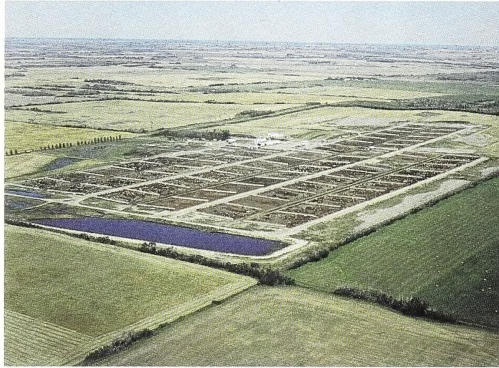
The Kotelko's approach to the environment is rooted in their approach to business.

"Producers are facing some real challenges, cattle prices are down and feed grain prices are up - but everything isn't just economics," says Bernard Kotelko. "As stewards, the well-being of the environment is our responsibility and in order to remain competitive, we have to show a strong commitment to protect it."

For Highland Feeders, this means aligning the goals of environmental enhancement with successful produc-

tion both on a day-to-day basis and in their long term strategies.

The feedlot took advantage of the natural sloping conditions of the land in construction of the facilities. The site



is landscaped on a clay base with a slight slope (2.5 per cent) to optimize drainage. Run-off is contained in clay-lined basins. Water wells are located to minimize the chance of percolation and subsurface clay soils provide an excellent barrier to migration.

Best management practices are used in the application of manure (which they refer to as *unused nutrients*) on the operation's 3,800 acres of cropland which produce 38,000 tonnes of barley silage.

The program includes manure analysis, soil analysis, crop nutritional requirements, cropping and manure management history, manure application rates, application timing and incorporation. Water is sourced from eight wells that are sampled regularly to monitor the water table and quality.

"As environmental stewards, we will continue to be proactive in our approach to the fragile relationship between feedlots and the environment," says Bernard. "Our current projects reflect our commitment and responsiveness to these issues."

The Kotelko's proactive approach to research includes a feedlot run-off study in cooperation with Alberta Agriculture, Northeastern Conservation Connection, Alberta Environmental Protection and the ACC. The goal of the run-off study is to provide hydrological data or information about the properties, distribution and movement of water in western Canadian feedlots.

Bernard adds, "Eventually we hope to define a run-off model that will provide an engineering tool for facility design, or even for reclamation of old sites. This should provide alternatives to, or at the very least, refine current methods of handling, collecting

and utilizing manure as a valuable resource. By quantifying some of the costs involved and describing the benefits, we are striving to provide the industry with practices that are not just sustainable, but will also improve the environment."

"Everything isn't just economics - as stewards, the well-being of the environment is our responsibility."

Bernard sums up his approach, "Ours is an industry with high public visibility. By optimizing our management practices we ensure that we are not only protecting, but nurturing our environment."

Highland Feeders is located near Vegreville. It began as a small mixed farm in 1976 and is now one of the 10 largest feedlots in Canada with a standing capacity of 25,000 head. It employs 30 people and contributes \$6.34 million locally and \$9.85 million to the provincial economy.

Who Will Win Next Year?

The Environmental Stewardship Award (ESA) was created to publicly recognize cattle producers who are doing an excellent job of protecting the environment from which they make their living.

If you know of someone who would be an excellent ambassador for the industry, why not nominate them for the 1998 ESA?

Deadline for nominations is June 1, 1997. Nomination forms are available from the ACC office at 275-4400.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were generated at 42 country meetings held throughout the province during late October and early November.

A resolutions committee comprised of Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) delegates organized the resolutions for the ACC's annual meeting held at the beginning of December. Each resolution was presented at the annual meeting, where it was debated and voted on by the 89

ACC delegates.

The carried and tabled resolutions are printed below. Limited space prevents us from printing the defeated and redundant resolutions. A complete list of resolutions is available from the ACC office. If you want further information about any one of the following resolutions, please contact your local ACC delegate (see list on pages 5-8).

Beef Promotion

1. "Be it resolved the ACC spend a minimum of five cents of every check-off to promote Alberta beef."
2. "Be it resolved the ACC spend more money in advertising."
3. "Be it resolved the ACC spend only and up to what is needed to continue the education program for 1997 which we started last year with the Western Heritage Centre to a limit of \$75,000."

tabled

Canadian Cattlemen's Association

1. "Be it resolved the ACC support the concept of a national beef check-off for promotion, market development and research."
2. "Be it resolved the ACC support the concept of a national check-off with a five year review."
3. "Be it resolved the ACC support a \$1.00 national check-off and that any increase in this check-off would require a vote."
4. "Be it resolved the ACC lobby the Canadian Cattlemen's Association to have the federal government set stiffer minimum penalties for livestock theft over \$500."

Executive

1. "Be it resolved the ACC's proposed amended marketing plan and marketing regulation be accepted."
2. "Be it resolved cattle producers amend the strategic plan to include a procedure to evaluate the attainment of these objectives."

3. "Be it resolved a chair of beef research at the University of Alberta be considered for funding from the Alberta beef industry development fund - this funding to be in place for an initial period of five years."
4. "Be it resolved a complete accounting of the petro-chemical study expenses be made available to the technical committee and to producers."

Government Affairs

1. "Be it resolved the ACC lobby the Alberta government to manage wildlife more effectively in areas where wildlife are causing significant losses of forage crops and feed supplies."
2. "Be it resolved the ACC lobby the provincial government to undertake a comprehensive study to determine the extent to which agriculture throughout Alberta has been affected by wildlife, hunting and predation."
3. "Be it resolved the ACC have representation at the Alberta fish and wildlife stakeholders' forum on wildlife management."
4. "Be it resolved the ACC lobby government to implement tighter emission regulations on the petroleum industry taking into account the cumulative effect of all facilities in an area rather than individual plants only."
5. "Be it resolved the ACC work with the petroleum industry to safeguard Alberta's cattle industry from pollution."

6. "Be it resolved the ACC lobby the Alberta government to maintain animal disease diagnostic services available to the livestock producers of Alberta through agriculture and animal health laboratories in Edmonton, Airdrie, Lethbridge and Fairview."
7. "Be it resolved the ACC support the Western Stock Growers' Association in its efforts to pass private property rights legislation in Alberta."
8. "Be it resolved the ACC lobby the Alberta government for right to farm legislation."
9. "Be it resolved the ACC lobby the Alberta government to better regulate logging operations on grazing leases to ensure that they are carried out in an environmentally sustainable manner."
10. "Be it resolved the ACC lobby the provincial government to clarify the legislation pertaining to public access on occupied land under grazing disposition now that the OH appeal has reached a decision."
11. "Be it resolved the ACC lobby the Alberta government to require railroads to obtain reclamation certificates on all rail lines abandoned between 1979 and 1993."
12. "Be it resolved the ACC lobby the Alberta government that brand inspection at feedlots where cattle are covered by an A form should be eliminated and that the \$1 fee be directed to the ACC for beef promotion."

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

13. "Be it resolved the ACC board of directors lobby brand registry to review and streamline brand inspection services."
14. "Be it resolved the ACC lobby the government for effective measures to control Richardson Ground Squirrels, preferably the reintroduction of strychnine."
15. "Be it resolved the ACC lobby the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association and the Alberta government to instigate a policy that would increase the number of vets that practice bovine veterinary medicine."
16. "Be it resolved the ACC lobby the government to roll back the maximum payout to an individual producer under the Farm Income Disaster Program from \$100,000 to \$50,000."

Producer Liaison

1. "Be it resolved the ACC continue to strive to better its communication with producers."

Public Affairs

1. "Be it resolved the ACC continue to support the Cows and Fish program."
2. "Be it resolved the ACC continue to play an educational role in creating producer awareness of environmental issues, i.e. water quality and resource management."

Technical

1. "Be it resolved the ACC continue to maintain an active technical committee to fund research at a provincial level."
2. "Be it resolved the ACC continue to fund research into the effects of the petrochemical industry on livestock."
3. "Be it resolved the ACC initiate further study into interzonal water and gas migration due to energy development and its effect on potable groundwater supply."
4. "Be it resolved the beef industry move aggressively to develop alternative methods of beef cattle identification to reduce and eliminate the need for branding."
5. "Be it resolved the ACC promote and assist in the establishment of a mandatory national beef identification program and take the leadership in the Canadian Cattlemen's Association to accomplish this objective."
6. "Be it resolved the ACC encourage implementation of a modern identification system that could be used from birth to slaughter, so animals could be tracked electronically, and production information could be accessed by producers to help track how many owners there were and final production data on individual animals."
7. "Be it resolved the ACC lobby the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association to promote proper injection site practices."

Finance

1. "Be it resolved the 1997/98 budget be approved as presented."

Miscellaneous

1. "Be it resolved the ACC support the 'Growing Alberta' campaign for \$50,000 provided the ACC continue to have input to the direction of the project."
2. "Be it resolved the ACC's 1997/98 budget allocate funds to fully meet its assessment to the Canadian Cattlemen's Association."
3. "Be it resolved the ACC in conjunction with industry begin an assessment process to evaluate current programs and the funding necessary to make the programs effective."

ALBERTA CATTLE COMMISSION DELEGATES

Zone 1:

Counties 2, 4, 8;
M.D.s 1, 14;
that area of
Special Area No.
2 that lies south
of the Red Deer
River



NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

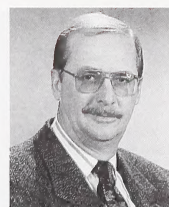
Norm Bauer
Hilda, 838-2141
technical committee



Janet Cordes
Rolling Hills, 964-2103
beef promotion
committee



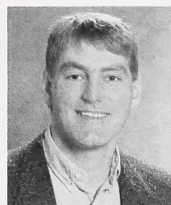
Arno Doerksen
Gem, 641-2498
government affairs
committee chairman



Larry Helland
Lomond, 792-2150
ACC chairman



Joan Hughson
Foremost, 867-2343
beef promotion
committee



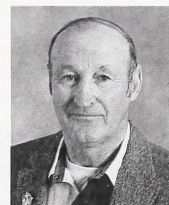
Murray Jorgensen
Bassano, 378-4093
public affairs
committee



Gerald Maser
Manyberries, 868-2423
producer liaison
committee

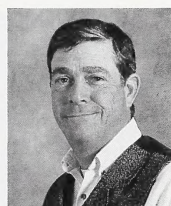


Gary McMorris
Milo, 599-2148
public affairs
committee

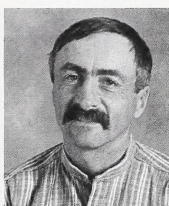


Simon Schonhofer
Jenner, 379-2272
government affairs
committee

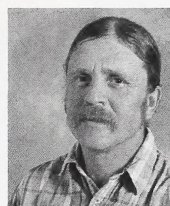
Zone 2:
Counties 5, 26;
M.D.s 6, 9, 26;
I.D.s 4, 5, 6;
Municipality of
Crowsnest
Pass



Clay Chattaway
Nanton, 646-5886
government affairs
committee



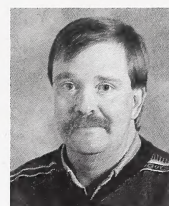
Bob Christie
Stavely, 549-2141
producer liaison
committee



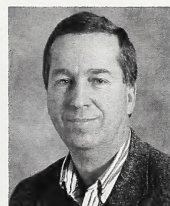
Keith Everts
Pincher Creek, 627-4983
public affairs
committee



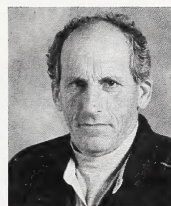
Kathy Flundra
Pincher Creek,
627-2476
zone coordinator



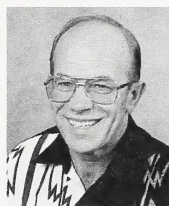
Clint Marr
Twin Butte, 627-4389
government affairs
committee



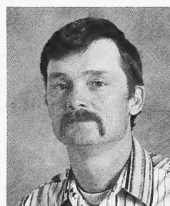
Gordon Mitchell
Pincher Creek, 627-5355
beef promotion
committee



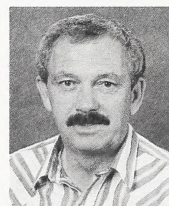
Peter Schuld
Iron Springs, 738-4439
technical committee



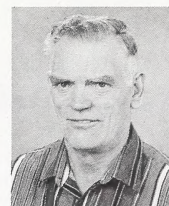
Herman Stroeve
Picture Butte, 738-4417
cattle industry
committee chairman



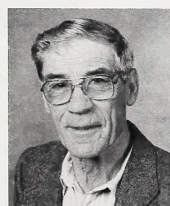
Byron Templeton
Coaldale, 345-3889
beef promotion
committee



Weldon Thomson
Raymond, 752-4551
technical committee

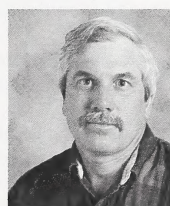


Cor van Raay
Iron Springs, 738-4528
beef promotion
committee



Stan Wilson
Nanton, 646-3184
government affairs
committee

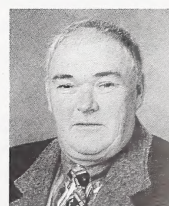
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Counties 16, 17;
M.D.s 8, 31, 44;
I.D.s 8, 9



Michael Bird
Blackie, 684-3446
government affairs
committee

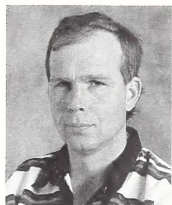


Mary Jane Davies
Carstairs, 337-3212
public affairs
committee

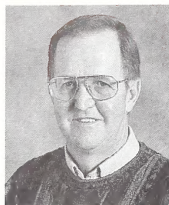


Charles Groeneveld
High River, 938-7843
technical committee

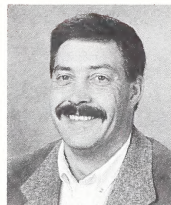
ALBERTA CATTLE COMMISSION DELEGATES



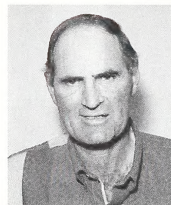
Barry Hilton
Strathmore, 934-5099
producer liaison
committee



Ernie Israelson
Didsbury, 335-4279
public affairs
committee



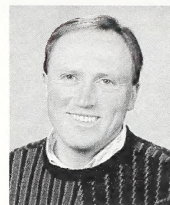
Randy Kaiser
Hussar, 787-2440
government affairs
committee



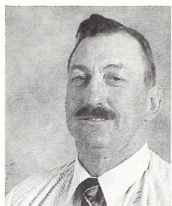
Stuart Morison
Airdrie, 948-4343
technical committee



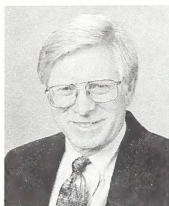
Sue Morrison
Okotoks, 938-0114
beef promotion
committee



Nels Nixdorff
Airdrie, 948-5604
beef promotion
committee

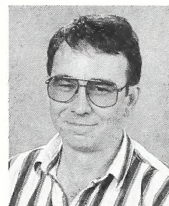


Lyle Taylor
Cochrane, 932-2631
producer liaison
committee



Ben Thorlakson
Airdrie, 948-5434

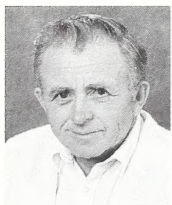
Zone 4:
*Counties 18, 29;
M.D.s 34, 52, 61;
that area of
Special Area No.
2 that lies north of
the Red Deer
River, Special
Area No. 3, Spe-
cial Area No. 4*



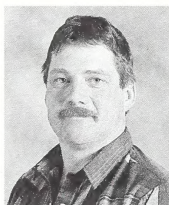
Ron Bullick
Coronation, 578-2192
beef promotion
committee



Jean Curry
Sunnynook, 566-2150
zone coordinator



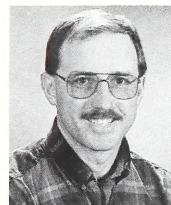
Brian Heidecker
Coronation, 578-4009



Darcy Lockhart
Youngstown, 779-2408
beef promotion
committee



Lorne Maul
Metiskow, 857-3779
government affairs
committee



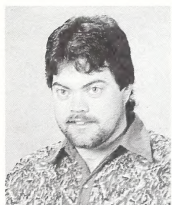
Stratton Peake
Finnegan, 566-2287
public affairs
committee



Larry Rosin
Craigmyle, 665-2432
producer liaison
committee

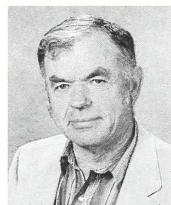


Randy Smith
Coronation, 575-2165
public affairs
committee

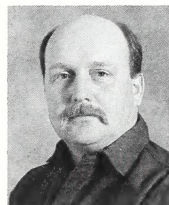


Tim Smith
Coronation, 575-2246
government affairs
committee

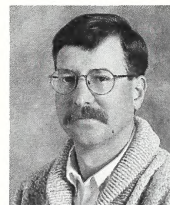
Zone 5:
*Counties 6,
14, 23;
M.D.s 7, 47,
48, 99*



Des Carney
Three Hills, 443-7369
technical committee
chairman



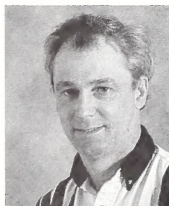
Greg Conn
Innisfail, 227-6692
public affairs
committee



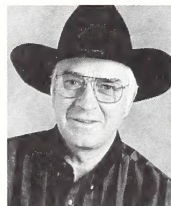
Darcy Davis
Acme, 546-2647
producer liaison
committee



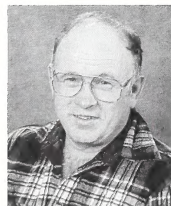
Mabel Hamilton
Innisfail, 224-2380
beef promotion
committee



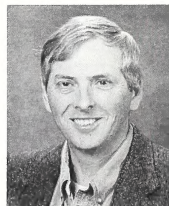
Ron Hopper
Rimbey, 843-3436
government affairs
committee



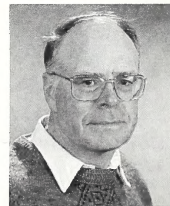
Robert Kuziw
Donalda, 883-2579
beef promotion
committee



Clyde Lynn
Rocky Mountain House,
729-2494
public affairs
committee



Rob Somerville
Endiang, 579-2406
technical committee

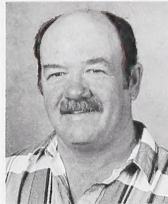


Dale Wilson
Rosedale, 823-4856
ACC vice-chairman

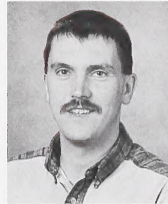
ALBERTA CATTLE COMMISSION DELEGATES

Zone 6:

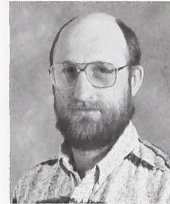
Counties 3, 9,
10, 20, 22, 25,
31; I.D. 13;
M.D. 77, City
of Edmonton



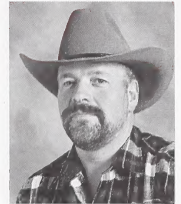
Randy Archibald
Rosalind, 375-2378
government affairs
committee



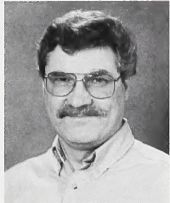
Dean Fankhanel
New Norway, 855-2467
public affairs
committee



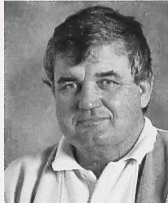
Elgar Grinde
Holden, 688-2123
technical committee



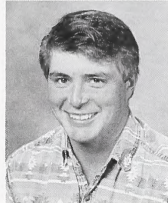
Arnold Hanson
Viking, 336-2598
zone coordinator



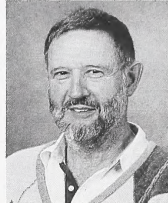
Marvin Molzan
Leduc, 986-2417
beef promotion
committee chairman



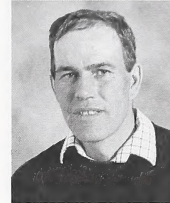
Don Mosicki
Warburg, 848-7778
beef promotion
committee



Mark Mowat
Gwynne, 352-9969
producer liaison
committee



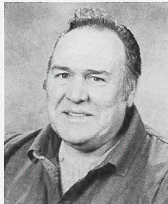
John Prentice
Calmar, 985-3611
government affairs
committee



Dave Solverson
Camrose, 672-7141
technical committee

Zone 7:

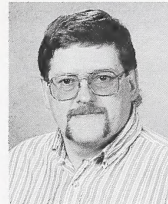
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11, 12, 28;
M.D.s 15, 17,
90, 92, 94,
124;
I.D. No. 12



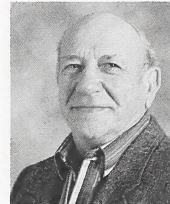
Mike Cook
Westlock, 954-2663
beef promotion
committee



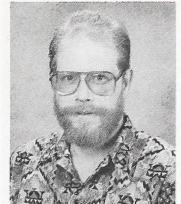
Joe Dobyanski
Westlock, 954-2165
producer liaison
committee



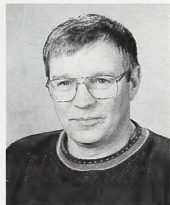
Dale Hilliard
Westlock, 349-3094
technical committee



Andrew Kapicki
Gibbons, 942-4249
government affairs
committee



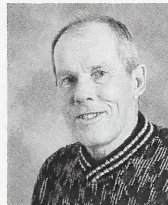
Murray Kerik
Flatbush, 681-2244
zone coordinator



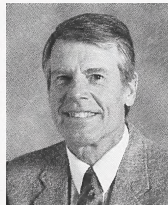
Lyle Keyes
Carrot Creek, 795-2234
producer liaison
committee



Barbara Kwasney
Athabasca, 675-4632
public affairs
committee



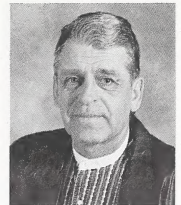
Bob O'Brien
Barhead, 674-4135
beef promotion
committee



Dave Pasay
Morinville, 939-2472
technical committee



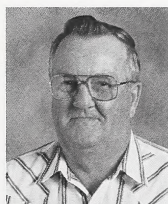
Charles Westra
Gibbons, 998-9083
public affairs
committee chairman



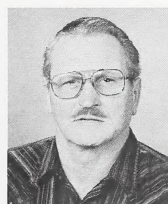
Dave Wildman
Sangudo, 785-2091
government affairs
committee

Zone 8:

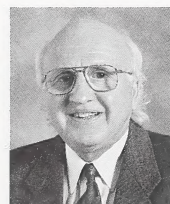
Counties 13,
19, 21, 24, 27,
30; M.D. 87,
Municipality of
Wood Buffalo,
I.D. 24



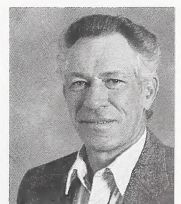
Vern Batke
Bonnyville, 826-5776
producer liaison
committee



Alex Broadbent
Lac La Biche, 623-4374
government affairs
committee



Guy Fontaine
Edmonton, 428-0707
public affairs
committee

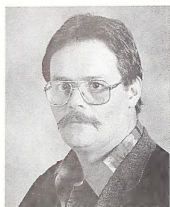


Don Good
Vermilion, 853-2220
government affairs
committee

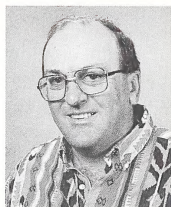
ALBERTA CATTLE COMMISSION DELEGATES



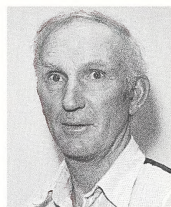
Raymond Konieczny
Mannville, 763-2304
beef promotion
committee



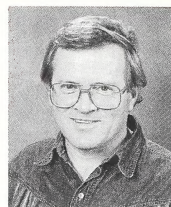
Lyndon Mansell
Innisfree, 592-2262
public affairs
committee



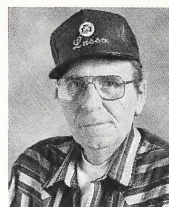
Ray Murphy
Bonnyville, 826-5477
producer liaison
committee



Don Selte
Vermilion, 853-2484
zone coordinator



Cliff Swan
Lac La Biche, 623-2831
technical committee



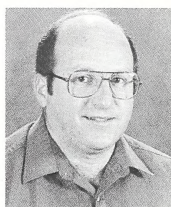
Howard Thomas
Lac La Biche, 623-4542
producer liaison
committee

Zone 9:

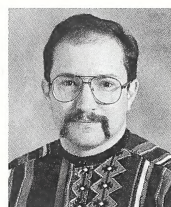
County 1;
M.D.s 16, 19,
20, 21, 22, 23,
125, 130, 131,
133, 135, 136



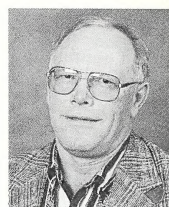
Gary Creelman
Fairview, 835-4645
beef promotion
committee



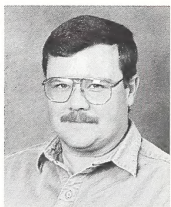
Philip Fazikos
Deadwood, 836-2299
public affairs
committee



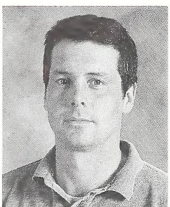
Greg Griffin
Bluesky, 835-2291
technical committee



Cec Jardine
Valleyview, 524-3507
finance chairman



Grant Kerik
Beaverlodge, 354-8053
government affairs
committee



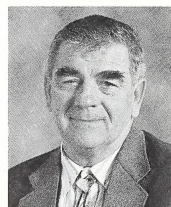
John McNaught
Woking, 774-2111
producer liaison
committee chairman



Larry Noullett
Valleyview, 524-5591
producer liaison
committee



Vic Patrick
Eggleham, 359-2211
technical committee



Mel Toews
Beaverlodge, 354-2787
zone coordinator

ACC Board of Directors:

Zone Directors:

Arno Doerksen (zone one)
Herman Stroeve (zone two)
Charles Groeneveld (zone three)
Ron Bullick (zone four)
Des Carney (zone five)
Marvin Molzan (zone six)
Charles Westra (zone seven)
Lyndon Mansell (zone eight)
John McNaught (zone nine)

Directors at Large:

Larry Helland (zone one)
Cec Jardine (zone nine)
Dale Wilson (zone five)

ACC Producer Association Delegates:

Alberta Canada All Breeds Association
Lyle Taylor (zone three)

Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association
Ernie Israelson (zone three)
Gordon Mitchell (zone two)

Alberta Milk Producers' Association
Peter Schuld (zone two)

Feeder Associations of Alberta
Vern Batke (zone eight)
Bob O'Brien (zone seven)

Western Stock Growers' Association
Clay Chattaway (zone two)
Dave Wildman (zone seven)

The ACC elects directors to the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) responsible for national lobbying, and to the Beef Information Centre (B.I.C.) responsible for national promotion.

CCA Directors:

Arno Doerksen (zone one)
Larry Helland (zone one)
Stratton Peake (zone four)
John Prentice (zone six)
Larry Sears (zone two)
Ben Thorlakson (zone three)
Dale Wilson (zone five)

B.I.C. Directors:

Mike Cook (zone six)
Mabel Hamilton (zone five)
Kim Hanson (zone two)
Joan Hughson (zone one)
Marvin Molzan (zone six)
Dale Wilson (zone five)



Beef Promotion

Olympic Beef Promotion Has Longevity

The 1996 Olympics are the fourth Olympic Games the beef industry, through the Beef Information Centre (B.I.C.), has sponsored. The B.I.C. has been the Official Olympic supplier of meat since the Winter Olympics in 1992.

"The beef industry's involvement with the Olympics and sponsorship of Olympic athletes has been very rewarding," says Kim Hanson, B.I.C.

chairman and Cardston area cattle producer.

"It has been a positive experience for beef producers and we trust that the athletes have also benefited from our contribution to amateur sport."

According to Hanson, the Olympic suppliership has been an opportunity to demonstrate, through Canada's top athletes, the key role that beef plays in peak performance.

"Olympic involvement and the use of athlete spokespersons increased awareness of the beef industry and improved consumer attitudes,"

"It has been a positive experience for beef producers and we trust that the athletes have also benefited from our contribution to amateur sport."



Beef Information Centre Chairman **Kim Hanson** presents steak gift packs to synchronized swimmers **Karen Clark** and **Cari Read**, silver medalists at the Atlanta Summer Olympics.

In the past four years, the B.I.C. has delivered gift boxes of steaks to over 900 Canadian Olympians.

Beef Volunteers

The Beef Education Association (BEA) is a group of volunteers working to educate consumers about beef.

BEA coordinators work with Alberta Cattle Commission delegates to coordinate activities such as in-store demonstrations, consumer trade shows, and extending national beef promotion programs and materials to local supermarkets and small meat markets.

To volunteer, or for more information about the BEA call (403) 275-4400.



BEA Coordinators

left to right: **Barbara Bastedo**, Calgary; **Dawn Oatway**, Grande Prairie; **Elizabeth Stroeve**, Picture Butte; **Janet Cordes**, Rolling Hills; **Betty Grech**, Mannville
missing: **Donna Tabor**, Norglenwood; **Carol Wilson**, Killam

Protect Yourself Against Rustling

Alberta's RCMP livestock investigators are reminding producers to take an active role in safeguarding the industry against cattle theft.

"I encourage all producers to report missing cattle and other livestock **as soon as possible** unless they are absolutely certain as to the fate of the animals," says Cpl. Emil Smetaniuk, livestock investigator for southern Alberta.

"Chances of recovering stolen livestock improve if the theft is reported immediately."

A growing number of livestock thefts involve 'white collar crime' where cattle ownership changes hands via

paper transactions, often sight unseen. Producers are cautioned to have a complete legal understanding of these transactions in order to protect themselves.

In 1995, investigators received 513 reports of stolen or missing cattle representing 1,824 head.

To report missing livestock or for more information contact Cpl. Smetaniuk (403) 291-6200 (Red Deer south), Cpl. Tim Woods (403) 945-5510 (Red Deer north) or your local RCMP detachment.



Land Use

How Will Special Places 2000 Affect You?

The *Special Places 2000* program was initiated by the provincial government as part of Canada's commitment to protecting biodiversity.

The program is being administered by a provincial coordinating committee which has two cattle industry representatives. The provincial coordinating

committee has recommended a number of sites in the mountain and shield regions for consideration by local committees. It is expected that

the provincial coordinating committee will be selecting sites in the foothills region for consideration by local committees at their next meeting in early January. They will consider sites in the parkland and grassland region through March and April.

The provincial coordinating committee assembles all the nominations for each natural region and then selects those that appear to best meet the needs of the program and which have the least conflict with existing uses.

Once candidate sites have been selected, the lease or allotment holders who might be affected are contacted by cattle industry representatives to get their views on a possible site designation. At that point, lessees may ask that the cattle industry representatives seek to have

the site dropped from the process, or may suggest changes to the boundaries or to the type of designation to minimize the impact on their operation.

Once a site is recommended to the environment minister for designation, he asks the appropriate municipality to set up a local committee to consider it. The local committee will include all affected stakeholders and provides lessees an opportunity to express their views about the site.

While cattle producers are naturally concerned about how this process may affect them, it is important to note they are protected by a number of measures that the government introduced as a result of the Alberta Cattle

Commission's concerns with the original *Special Places* proposal.

The government is committed to protecting current uses. Leases within designated areas will continue to operate under existing rules and lease renewals and transfers will not be affected.

Lessees will be involved in any management plan drawn up as part of the designation process. In fact, there are potential advantages to having a lease within an area designated as a *Special Place*.

The whole future of public lands is going to be reviewed in 1998. The issue of setting aside areas for protection and recreation will be hotly debated.

Lessees who have already dealt with the issue and put a management plan in place will be able to sit back knowing their land use is secure and it is unlikely the rules will be changed.

Lease Cost Study

The Alberta Cattle Commission and Alberta Agriculture will conduct a grazing lease cost study in 1997 to determine the actual costs of operating a grazing lease. A random sample of one hundred leaseholders will be asked to participate. The study is being prepared for the provincial government's review of public lands in 1998.

ACC Market Information Service

Slaughter Cattle Information
(403) 274-4340

Feeder Cattle Information
(403) 274-4345

The Alberta Cattle Commission 216, 6715 - 8th St. N.E. Calgary, AB T2E 7H7
Phone: (403) 275-4400, Fax: (403) 274-0007 Mail Registration Number 116432